growing season makes for intense activity during part of the year and enforced idleness during much of the remainder. Home industries only partially occupy the time of the slack seasons. For a large proportion of the rural population lack of occupation encourages a relaxing of morale in the long interval between the harvest and the spring plowing. The frequent famines in the North tend also to lower the quality of the population. In the Yangtze Valley and the South, on the other hand, the winter temperatures are milder, dust storms do not occur, and outdoor life and frequent bathing are possible.' The longer growing season shortens or eliminates the winter idleness of the farmer. Famines are less frequent. The undoubted fact that of late centuries the Chinese of the Yangtze and the South average much higher in. initiative and leadership can, therefore, probably be attributed in part to the climatic contrasts between the great sections of the land.

Even in the Yangtze Valley and the South the climate is not altogether favorable. The enervating humid heat of the summers partly counterbalances the benefits of the cool winters.

Throughout China the concentration of the rainfall in the spring and summer reduces the productivity-of the fields. A more evenly distributed precipitation would make for better crops. In the North, where the total annual precipitation is scanty, much of the rain comes in torrential downpours and runs off into the rivers before it can penetrate the soil.

To the climate, too, may be ascribed in part (but not entirely) the paucity of such domestic animals as the cow, the sheep, and the horse, which depend largely upon pasture and hay for food. The rank growth in the humid, damp summers

makes for coarse grasses which prove difficult to eat and digest. The dependence for animal food on such scavengers as the pig and the chicken may have a climatic factor back of it. More than the North the Yangtze Valley and the South, with their hot, wet summers, show the effects of this absence of pasture grasses.

To the monsoonal nature of the climate must be assigned, too, some of the floods which so often afflict China. The concentration of the rain in a few months frequently means torrential downpours and the consequent over-congestion of the drainage system.